

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2243

Chapter 2243 Preparations

Francesca suddenly remembered something. “If you put it that way, does that mean Hazel was only a pawn of theirs?” William nodded solemnly. “She must have been innocent. If it was only for love, she didn’t need to sacrifice her father’s life.

If I’m not mistaken, she had always been a pawn, and the previous scandals might not have been her intention at all. The first lady instigated Gerard to help further her cause.

Her purpose was to use Hazel as a diversion and have everybody think that Hazel created all the chaos just to marry into the Lindberg family, to mask the fact that the actual mastermind had been the first lady. In any case, judging by how things turned out, it’s obvious that the one who was behind all this benefited the most.”

So that’s what happened. Francesca suddenly recalled something Hazel had once said to her.

“Actually, it’s good to be a doctor who’s free and easy. There’s really no need to get involved in such a complicated political battle...” Those were her exact words.

Perhaps Hazel had known from the start how deep the waters were. She had warned me often to distance myself, yet I didn’t heed her advice.

“Hazel is clever. Danrique wouldn’t have valued her highly otherwise.” William seemed to have seen through Francesca’s thoughts. “However, even if she had seen through many things beforehand, there’s no avoiding the fact that she’s hostile toward you. Her father is dead, after all. Her hatred for you will only deepen. Even if she finds out that someone else was behind it, she still wouldn’t forgive you.”

Francesca fell silent at those words. Layla frowned. “It looks like we’re caught between a rock and a hard place. Our only hope is that Danrique returns unharmed before they capture Francesca.”

William was pessimistic. “I don’t think things are that simple. As the first lady is behind this, it wouldn’t be long before somebody comes after Francesca. They would have nothing to fear since the Lindberg family doesn’t have anyone at the helm right now.”

“Seriously?” Layla’s eyes widened with terror. She was about to say something when Sloan hurried in to report, “Ms. Felch, news about Gerard being poisoned to death is all over the headlines now. Everyone all around the world knows about this. The police have issued an ultimatum: If you don’t turn yourself in, they’ll barge in here.”

“This is unbelievable! They only dare to do this because someone has their backs!” Layla yelled, incensed.

Francesca, on the contrary, was unusually calm. “It’s on the news? What news?”

Sloan handed Francesca the tablet. “Every major media outlet around the world has been spreading the word. Your name is censored, but they identified the offender as Mr. Lindberg’s fiancée.”

Francesca took a look. Sure enough, the news did not mention her alter-ego, Francesco. They only reported Danrique’s complete disappearance and that his fiancée, someone given the alias Ms. F, had poisoned Gerald Atkinson, a member of one of the three great families.

Danrique rarely appeared in public, much less in the press. Despite that, due to the prestige of his identity, news pertaining to him tended to spread like wildfire.

This time, especially, it spread across the globe in the blink of an eye.

Danrique's legendary fiancée, Ms. F, had become known as a mysterious and vicious woman whose true identity the media all over the globe was trying to deduce.

Some inferred that she had poisoned Hazel's father because she was engaged in a fight of jealousy with Hazel. Others believed that her motive was linked to Danrique's disappearance.

In any event, public opinion on the matter was influential.

Many emphasized that nobody was above the law and that murder was the most heinous crime of all. They called for the truth to be unearthed at all costs so the murderer could be severely punished.

Some had even created polls online. Hundreds of millions of netizens voted in favor of punishing Francesca severely.

Layla was livid. "Everything has clearly been premeditated. It had only been six hours since the meeting. His death couldn't have made the news that quickly, nor would it have caused a large public outrage in such a short time!"

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Chapter 2244 Indecent

Comprehension dawned on Francesca. “Everything has been planned in advance. But why would they want to conceal my identity?”

“They probably did that because they considered the fact that you have saved many lives, including some big shots who would probably take action if they found out that you are detained in Erihal. Thus, they censored your identity to avoid attracting trouble for themselves.”

“It is indeed premeditated, given that everything is so carefully arranged,” William surmised. “What do we do now? Will they storm in to arrest her?” Monica asked anxiously.

As soon as she spoke, a subordinate came in to report, “The military is here, Ms. Felch, Sloan.” Sloan panicked. “What? Even the military has gotten involved? Things are looking serious.”

“Pack your things, Francesca. Let’s get out of here,” Layla urged Francesca. “You’re right. I’ll go pack as well.” Monica stood up at once.

Francesca remained calm. “That won’t work. The military is already here to arrest me. How are we going to escape? Even if we managed to make it out of this castle, we wouldn’t be able to leave Xendale.”

William nodded. “That’s right. She’s innocent, but if she escapes now, they would think she’s absconding because she’s guilty. That way, Erihal could issue an arrest warrant for her.”

“Then what should we do? Let them take her away?” Layla asked in a panic. William did not reply to that. Instead, he gazed at Francesca with a complicated expression.

The woman announced placidly, “Since the military and higher-ups of the police department are involved, I’m not in a position to say no. Besides, I don’t think they would dare harm me. The most they could do is lock me up for a couple of days.”

William nodded. “She would be even safer in their hands.”

Layla was beside herself with anxiety. “Have you ever thought about why they’re making such a big fuss? They’re trying to lure Danrique out. For all we know, he might be hurt right now and is currently hiding. He could’ve laid low and reappear to turn the situation around after he gets better, but do you think he can stay calm and do nothing if he finds out you’re arrested?”

Francesca was conflicted. “But if I’m arrested, my sentence is as good as confirmed. What if they announce to the public that Danrique was the one who instructed me to poison Gerard? Won’t that cause him more trouble?”

Layla’s frown grew deeper. “That’s possible. Perhaps this is a trap. The moment you escape, they will convict Danrique of various offenses, preventing him from even returning to Erihal.”

Monica panicked. “We can’t escape, nor can we stay. What should we do, then?”

Francesca quickly made up her mind. “I can’t run. I would have to go through a trial and an investigation since they’re doing things according to the procedure. At least they wouldn’t do anything to me during that phase, but...”

She peered out the window, feeling uneasy. “Would those scoundrels come to steal the seal in my absence? I will need a few bodyguards.”

Sloan felt distressed for Francesca. “Don’t worry about us right now, Ms. Felch. Take care of yourself instead. I’d already had somebody contact Gordon, and he’ll think of something when he gets back.”

“He’s out there searching for Danrique. Don’t bother him,” replied Francesca before leaving in a hurry.

“Where are you going, Ms. Felch? Ms. Felch!” Sloan immediately followed her while Layla did the same.

Monica asked in a low voice, “Your Highness, should we leave? This doesn’t concern us, and I think the military and the police wouldn’t give us a hard time...”

William scowled at her. “It would be indecent if we were to leave at this crucial moment! Francesca had rescued me so many times. How could I stay out of this when she needs me the most?”

Monica was distressed. “There’s nothing you can do now, and we’ll be implicated if we stay. What would become of Robin and everybody in the castle if something happened to you?”

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Chapter 2245 Goddess

William's expression turned grim. "Shut up. I don't want to hear you say such nonsense a second time." "Yes, Your Highness." Monica inclined her head at once, not daring to speak further.

"Give me my phone." Monica handed William's phone to him, and he called Robin. "Find me a legal team that is familiar with Erihal's laws. Also, come as soon as you can." "Yes, Your Highness."

Robin had seen the news and learned that something had happened to Francesca. Knowing that his master would contact him, he had already made preparations.

After hanging up, William ordered Monica, "Arrange a meeting with Hazel for me."

"Yes, Your Highness." Though Monica disagreed about William getting involved, she gave him her full support since he had already made up his mind. "One more thing."

William was about relay another order when eagle cries suddenly sounded outside. Instinctively, he turned to look and saw several eagles gliding past the window. Following that, a herd of wild beasts raced toward the front hall.

Monica was dumbfounded for she had never seen such a spectacle before. "Did the animals escape because they were frightened?" she asked, panicking. "Wheel me out."

"Yes, Your Highness." Monica wheeled William out of the palace, and the pair soon became stunned upon witnessing the scene before them.

Francesca was standing at the entrance of the hall with her arms spread open as she summoned every animal inhabiting the animal-training facility.

The eagles gliding in the sky and the beasts galloping across the place heeded her command. In the near distance, the convoy of vehicles that had just arrived skidded to jerky halts.

Among them were police cars containing the force's highest-ranking officers, military jeeps of the army, and private vehicles belonging to the three great families.

The high-ranking police officers and military officials in their cars were awestruck by the scene before them. Seated in one of the MPVs, Hazel, Harrier, and Kevin were similarly stunned.

“W-What is going on here? Don't tell me that brat had been in the circus before!” Kevin was so worked up he was babbling incoherently.

“Though I'd heard of her ability to summon beasts, I thought it far-fetched. I can't believe it's true.” Harrier narrowed his eyes and peered out the window with a complicated expression.

“I don't care how good she is. She is going to pay for killing my father.”

Hazel glared at Francesca with hatred as her hands clenched into fists. She was merely hostile toward Francesca before that, but at present, she also felt immense hatred toward her.

Kevin was thoroughly rattled. “Beast summoning? I've only seen it in movies. I can't believe it exists in the real world as well!”

Harrier appeared calm. “The world is never short on curiosities. Why would Danrique be so deeply in love with her if she isn't remarkable?”

Kevin became disconcerted. “This girl seems formidable. Will we be able to defeat her?”

“She won’t be able to run with the military and the police here. She owes a blood debt, so it’s only natural that she pay it with her own life,” Hazel snarled. She then exited the vehicle and proceeded to beckon the cars behind them to move forward.

At that moment, Francesca waved her arms and ordered the beasts, “In my absence, defend the castle and prevent any breaches!”

The beasts nodded as if they were a unique task force. Francesca waved her hands again, and the animals retreated to the side at once to make way for the convoy’s arrival.

The occupants exited their vehicles tentatively. Armed with guns, members of the military and police force regarded Francesca with wariness and fear.

Francesca stood at the entrance. A convocation of eagles circled above her head, and a pack consisting of tigers, lions, and leopards flanked her. Every one of those beasts glowered at the people before them with murderous intent, as if saying, “I will tear apart whoever dares lay a finger on my goddess.”

The entourage of predators terrified all of them. Some police officers were so frightened that they were trembling. Kevin, on the other hand, didn’t even dare to emerge from the vehicle.

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Chapter 2246 Assist In The Investigation

Hazel might hate Francesca, but she was terrified by how the situation had escalated. She couldn't even utter a word. Harrier stood behind the crowd and watched silently.

The team stood dozens of meters away as they dared not come any closer. Each of them pointed a gun at the beasts warily, not daring to let their guards down. Despite that, they were still extremely uneasy, afraid that the beasts would rush over to rip them into shreds.

In the end, someone from the military spoke. "Ms. Felch, you are under suspicion of being involved in a murder case. Please come with us to assist in the investigation."

"Be clear. What murder case do you suspect I'm involved in?" Francesca demanded haughtily. "Gerard Atkinson died from poison after seeing you. According to our investigation, you used a venomous snake to attack him, so—"

"Please mind your words," Francesca interjected icily. "The venomous snake had indeed flown from my hands to his neck, but I summoned it back before it could bite him. Gerard's death has nothing to do with me."

"How can we know if you're telling the truth?" Hazel roared angrily. "My father kept holding his neck back then. He also said his neck felt cold and numb. It must be your venomous snake that bit him! Nothing happened on our way back, and the poison acted up when we got home, killing him in the process. Who else could it be? It must be you!"

"Even though we've met up, that doesn't mean I killed him. If you die later, is it my fault, too?" Francesca retorted.

“Hey!” Hazel’s face paled in fury.

Right then, William gave Monica a silent gesture. The woman immediately shoved Sloan, hinting at him to speak up.

Regaining his senses, Sloan promptly explained, “Ms. Atkinson, I think you’ve gotten it wrong. The green snake belongs to Mr. Lindberg. It has been bathed in poison since its birth, so its venom is extremely fatal. If it had bitten Mr. Atkinson, he would’ve died on the spot. There was no way he’d die at home.”

“Hear that?” Hazel grew increasingly emotional. “Francesca knew that snake was venomous but allowed it to bite my father! She wanted to kill my father!”

“No, I mean—”

“Francesca, I must avenge my father! How could you do that to him?”

Hazel grabbed a gun and aimed it at Francesca.

Suddenly, one of the tigers let out a guttural roar at her. Frightened, Hazel nearly collapsed to the ground.

“Let me repeat myself. I didn’t kill your father.” Francesca shot her a frosty look before turning to the police. “You must’ve examined the body, right? What did the forensic pathologist say?”

“According to the forensic pathologist, Mr. Atkinson died from snake venom. Ms. Felch, all evidence points to you, so please follow us back to assist in the investigation,” the highest-ranking police officer replied.

“Snake venom, huh?” Francesca sneered. “So it’s indeed a pre-arranged trap.”

“What do you mean?” Hazel demanded instinctively.

“You’re only needed to assist in the investigation. Please cooperate.” The police officer gestured for Francesca to leave with them.

“Before Mr. Lindberg returns, no one is allowed to take Ms. Felch away,” Sloan declared as he led his men to stand before Francesca.

“No one dares to harm Ms. Felch, but if you stop us from carrying out our job, we have no choice but to arrest her with force,” one military officer said sternly. “After all, we’ve received Mr. President’s orders to carry out this mission.”

Sloan and the rest were stunned to hear that. The president gave them the orders? No wonder they are this insistent.

Francesca’s lips curled. It looks like Layla and William’s prediction was right.

She said calmly, “Assist in the investigation, right? No problem. But my subordinates won’t allow anyone to barge into the Lindberg residence when I’m not around.”

With that said, she waved her hands, and the beasts roared out loud in unison.

The beasts’ roars were so deafening that the rest took a step back as their faces turned pale in horror.

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Chapter 2247 Depend On Him

Francesca walked toward them, but none of them had the to arrest her. Instead, they kept retreating in fear.

They backed up until they found themselves pressed up against their cars and had no other way out. Left with no choice, they were forced to face Francesca.

The beasts followed Francesca closely, so the police officers didn't even dare to lay a hand on her. Finally, Francesca gave a wave to dismiss the beasts.

Only then did the highest-ranking police officer take a deep breath as he opened the car door carefully. "This way, please," he said. "Ms. Felch..." Sloan took a step forward to stop her.

Francesca made a gesture and ordered, "Stay at home and protect Ms. Layla." "Got it, Ms. Felch," Sloan answered with a sad nod. "I'll wait for you here," Layla said, her eyes reddening.

"Okay." Francesca bobbed her head and turned to William. "William, your condition is stable, so you can leave anytime. This has nothing to do with you, and they won't make things difficult for you."

She whipped her head around to look at the military and police officers. "Am I right, guys?"

The leaders of both teams nodded. "Of course. Prince William has nothing to do with the matter. No one will find fault with him."

"I'm glad to hear that."

William spoke suddenly. “The castle is huge. I don’t feel like living. Francesca, I’ll wait for your and L’s return here!”

“All right.” Francesca didn’t think too much about his words as she assumed he had nowhere to go. After all, people in Danontand were watching him like a hawk and might attempt to hurt him if he were to leave.

It would be safer for him to stay under the Lindberg family’s protection.

“Ms. Felch, come on,” the police officer urged.

Francesca got into the car. The beasts wanted to follow her, but she chided, “Leave.”

The beasts hurriedly retreated, heeding her order.

The police officers quickly got into the car and drove away.

A few eagles soared in the sky above the car to escort Francesca.

When the driver sped up, the eagles increased their speed, too. They were impossible to shake off.

Seeing that, the police officers in the car broke out into a cold sweat.

Francesca told them calmly, “Don’t worry. They won’t hurt anyone if I’m not in danger.”

“Ms. Felch, please don’t say that. We wouldn’t dare to hurt you!” The police officer hurriedly explained, “You only have to assist in the investigation. We’re doing this under orders.”

“Under whose orders?” Francesca asked with her brow arched.

“Well...” The police officer seemed hesitant to answer her question.

She said nothing else for she had gotten the answer she wanted from his silence.

Clearly, Layla and William were right. It was the president's doing. Without his orders, no one will have the guts to harm someone who's part of the Lindberg family!

Nevertheless, the police officers weren't lying when they said they dared not touch Francesca for now. They still had to use her to force Danrique to show himself.

The car drove out of the castle. Layla watched the convoy for a while before looking away.

She had expected this day to come ever since Francesca ended up with Danrique. Alas, their efforts to protect her were in vain.

I thought I was able to help Francesca, but now I realize that I am helpless in the face of absolute power. Perhaps someone else can be of help at a time like this...

Layla went over to William. "Prince William, do you have a plan in mind?"

That was the first time Layla took the initiative to talk to William politely. "I've asked Robin to come to the castle with a professional legal team," William revealed with a smile. "Don't worry. I'll help Francesca."

"Oh, that's good to know. Thank you." Layla sighed in relief. He's my only hope for now.